

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An automated method of assessing readiness of a fleet of aircraft comprising:

receiving at least one mission request including a date and a number of aircraft;

automatically determining relative states of readiness of a plurality of aircraft of the fleet with a processing element, wherein determining the relative states of readiness comprises automatically analyzing maintenance information associated with the plurality of aircraft with the processing element to determine the relative states of readiness of the plurality of aircraft on the date of the requested mission; and

identifying aircraft with the processing element that ~~will be capable of performing~~ are able to perform the requested mission and providing, via the processing element, respective measures of the relative states of readiness of the aircraft identified to be ~~capable of performing~~ able to perform the requested mission.

2. (Currently amended) A method according to Claim 1 wherein identifying aircraft that ~~will be capable of performing~~ are able to perform the requested mission comprises identifying the aircraft having the greatest likelihood of completing the requested mission.

3. (Currently amended) A method according to Claim 1 further comprising proposing a modification of the mission request in order to increase the relative states of readiness of the aircraft ~~capable of performing~~ able to perform the modified mission in comparison to the relative states of readiness of the aircraft ~~capable of performing~~ able to perform the requested mission.

4. (Original) A method according to Claim 1 wherein determining the relative states of readiness further comprises determining the relative states of readiness based upon respective probabilities of failure of the aircraft following completion of the maintenance operations.

5. (Original) A method according to Claim 4 wherein determining the relative states of readiness based upon respective probabilities of failure of the aircraft following completion of

the maintenance operations comprises determining the relative states of readiness based upon an intensity function appropriate for the type of process that describes the probability of failure of the aircraft.

6. (Currently amended) A computer program product for assessing readiness of a fleet of aircraft, the computer program product comprising a computer-readable storage medium having computer-readable program code portions stored therein, the computer-readable program code portions comprising:

a first executable portion for receiving at least one mission request including a date and a number of aircraft;

a second executable portion for automatically determining relative states of readiness of a plurality of aircraft of the fleet, wherein said second executable portion is also ~~capable of~~ configured to automatically analyzing analyze maintenance information associated with the plurality of aircraft to determine the relative states of readiness of the plurality of aircraft on the date of the requested mission; and

a third executable portion for identifying aircraft that ~~will be capable of performing~~ are able to perform the requested mission, wherein said third executable portion is also ~~capable of providing~~ configured to provide respective measures of the relative states of readiness of the aircraft identified to be ~~capable of performing~~ able to perform the requested mission.

7. (Currently amended) A computer program product according to Claim 6 wherein said third executable portion is further ~~capable of identifying~~ configured to identify the aircraft having the greatest likelihood of completing the requested mission.

8. (Currently amended) A computer program product according to Claim 6 further comprising a fourth executable portion for proposing a modification of the mission request in order to increase the relative states of readiness of the aircraft ~~capable of performing~~ able to perform the modified mission in comparison to the relative states of readiness of the aircraft ~~capable of performing~~ able to perform the requested mission.

9. (Currently amended) A computer program product according to Claim 6 wherein said second executable portion is further ~~capable of determining~~ configured to determine the relative states of readiness based upon respective probabilities of failure of the aircraft following completion of the maintenance operations.

10. A computer program product according to Claim 9 wherein determining the relative states of readiness based upon respective probabilities of failure of the aircraft following completion of the maintenance operations comprises determining the relative states of readiness based upon an intensity function appropriate for the type of process that describes the probability of failure of the aircraft.

11. (Currently amended) A system for automatically assessing readiness of a fleet of aircraft comprising a processing element ~~capable of receiving~~ configured to receive at least one mission request including a date and a number of aircraft, said processing element also ~~capable of~~ configured to automatically ~~determining~~ determine relative states of readiness of a plurality of aircraft of the fleet based upon an automated analysis of maintenance information associated with the plurality of aircraft to determine the relative states of readiness of the plurality of aircraft on the date of the requested mission, and wherein said processing element is further ~~capable of identifying~~ configured to identify aircraft that ~~will be capable of performing~~ are able to perform the requested mission and ~~providing~~ provide respective measures of the relative states of readiness of the aircraft identified to be ~~capable of performing~~ able to perform the requested mission.

12. (Currently amended) A system according to Claim 11 wherein said processing element is further ~~capable of identifying~~ configured to identify the aircraft having the greatest likelihood of completing the requested mission.

13. (Currently amended) A system according to Claim 11 wherein said processing element is further ~~capable of proposing~~ configured to propose a modification of the mission request in order to increase the relative states of readiness of the aircraft ~~capable of performing~~

able to perform the modified mission in comparison to the relative states of readiness of the aircraft ~~capable of performing~~ able to perform the requested mission.

14. (Currently amended) A system according to Claim 11 wherein said processing element is further ~~capable of determining~~ configured to determine the relative states of readiness based upon respective probabilities of failure of the aircraft following completion of the maintenance operations.

15. (Currently amended) A system according to Claim 14 wherein said processing element is further ~~capable of determining~~ configured to determine the relative states of readiness based upon respective probabilities of failure of the aircraft following completion of the maintenance operations by determining the relative states of readiness based upon an intensity function appropriate for the type of process that describes the probability of failure of the aircraft.

16. (Withdrawn) An automated method of analyzing maintenance operations performed upon a fleet of aircraft comprising:

automatically analyzing maintenance information associated with the plurality of aircraft to determine relative states of readiness of the plurality of aircraft upon completion of the maintenance operations scheduled for the plurality of aircraft;

providing respective measures of the relative states of readiness of the plurality of aircraft upon completion of the maintenance operations scheduled for the plurality of aircraft; and

allocating maintenance resources based upon the respective measures of the relative states of readiness of the plurality of aircraft.

17. (Withdrawn) A method according to Claim 16 wherein allocating maintenance resources comprises prioritizing the maintenance operations scheduled for the aircraft that will have the greatest state of readiness upon completion of the maintenance operations.

18. (Withdrawn) A method according to Claim 16 wherein determining the relative states of readiness comprises determining the relative states of readiness based upon respective probabilities of failure of the aircraft following completion of the maintenance operations.

19. (Withdrawn) A method according to Claim 18 wherein determining the relative states of readiness based upon respective probabilities of failure of the aircraft following completion of the maintenance operations comprises determining the relative states of readiness based upon an intensity function appropriate for the type of process that describes the probability of failure of the aircraft.

20. (Currently amended) An automated method of assessing readiness of a plurality of repairable systems comprising:

receiving at least one system allocation request including a date and a number of systems to be allocated; and

automatically determining relative states of readiness of the plurality of repairable systems with a processing element, wherein determining the relative states of readiness comprises:

analyzing maintenance information associated with the plurality of repairable systems with the processing element to determine the repairable systems that will be operational on the date of the requested system allocation; and

determining, with the processing element, respective measures of the relative states of readiness of the repairable systems that will be operational on the date of the requested system allocation based upon respective probabilities of failure of the repairable systems following completion of the maintenance operations.

21. (Original) A method according to Claim 20 further comprising identifying systems that will be operational on the date of the requested system allocation.

22. (Original) A method according to Claim 21 further comprising providing the respective measures of the relative states of readiness of the repairable identified to be operational on the date of the requested system allocation.

23. (Original) A method according to Claim 21 wherein identifying systems that will be operational on the date of the requested system allocation comprises identifying the systems having the greatest state of readiness on the date of the requested system allocation.

24. (Original) A method according to Claim 21 further comprising proposing a modification of the system allocation request in order to increase the relative states of readiness of the systems identified to be operational on the date of the modified system allocation request in comparison to the relative states of readiness of the systems identified to be operational on the date of the original system allocation request.

25. (Original) A method according to Claim 21 wherein determining the respective measures of the relative states of readiness of the repairable systems comprises determining respective measures of the relative states of readiness of the repairable systems on the date of the requested system allocation based upon an intensity function appropriate for the type of process that describes the probability of failure of the repairable systems.

26. (Withdrawn) An automated method of analyzing maintenance operations performed upon a plurality of repairable systems comprising:

analyzing maintenance information associated with the plurality of repairable systems to determine relative states of readiness of the plurality of repairable systems;

determining respective measures of the relative states of readiness of the repairable systems based upon respective probabilities of failure of the repairable systems following completion of the maintenance operations; and

allocating maintenance resources based upon the respective measures of the relative states of readiness of the plurality of repairable systems.

27. (Withdrawn) A method according to Claim 26 wherein allocating maintenance resources comprises prioritizing the maintenance operations scheduled for the repairable systems that will have the greatest state of readiness upon completion of the maintenance operations.

28. (Withdrawn) A method according to Claim 26 wherein determining the relative states of readiness comprises determining the relative states of readiness based upon respective probabilities of failure of the repairable systems following completion of the maintenance operations.

29. (Withdrawn) A method according to Claim 26 wherein determining the respective measures of the relative states of readiness of the repairable systems comprises providing respective measures of the relative states of readiness of the repairable systems that will be operational on the date of the requested system allocation based upon an intensity function appropriate for the type of process that describes the probability of failure of the repairable system.